

# **BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Monday, June 16, 2008**

**Oliver Administration Building**

### **Present**

**Subcommittee: William O'Dell, Paul Brule, David Dugan, William Estrella and Marjorie McBride**

**School Committee, Administration and Staff: Diana Campbell, John Saviano, Paul Silva, Edward Mara, Jane Correia, George Simmons (6:10) and Beth Penkala (6:50)**

**Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.**

### **Public Comment**

**None**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to approve the minutes to the May 14, 2008 meeting; Bill Estrella seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0 (Marjorie McBride abstained).**

## **Warrants**

**No concerns.**

## **FY 2008**

**Jane Correia reported the FY 2008 financial report unchanged. The projected balance can be moved to Capital Projects or left in the General Fund. Elisabeth Vincze has made a request to use some of that balance for a keyboard lab (attached).**

## **Fields**

**Diana Campbell reported on field discussions that have taken place at Bristol Recreation Board meetings. Regarding the restriction of the use of town fields by the lacrosse team, it appears that Bristol feels the willingness of both towns to allow the District to use town fields for student athletics is not equal, despite the fact that we are a regional school district. Diana feels the District is being eased out of the Bristol town fields. Jane and Ed reviewed the attempts made in the recent past to come to agreement; there was actually an agreement drawn up which was signed by District Administration and the Town of Bristol but never signed by the Warren Town Administrator. This agreement provided generous financial support to Warren for field maintenance. After discussion it was agreed that a**

meeting with Town Administrators and Town Council Presidents is in order.

**ACTION:** Bill Estrella instructed the Superintendent to arrange a meeting for the Superintendent, the Warren Town Manager, the Bristol Town Administrator, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Warren and Bristol Town Councils and the School Committee Chair and Vice-Chair to discuss coordinating efforts for fields. Later in the meeting, the Athletic Director was included.

Bill O'Dell asked if there were any objections to him attending the meeting if he is available. A meeting time will be set and will be open to all School Committee members.

Later in the meeting Beth Penkala mentioned that the practice field areas used for JV games is becoming unsafe due to overplaying the fields.

### **FY 2008 Projected Balance**

The handling of the fund balance was discussed. Most members agreed that a decision on the disposition of this money should be delayed until the Colt Andrews Project is completed, which could affect the amount of the balance, and a prioritized action plan developed. John Saviano felt the language lab should be addressed since it was a NEASC deficiency. Marj McBride believes there are other avenues to be explored for the lab without sacrificing a

classroom.

**MOTION:** Bill Estrella motioned to respectfully accept the suggestions to date and continue to ask administration to develop a special capital projects list and recommend to the School Committee that all fund balance amounts be transferred into the capital projects reserve account and revisit it in the Subcommittee in July and make recommendations to the full Committee. David Dugan seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Bill O'Dell reiterated the need to keep in mind the high school fields.

#### **FY 2009 Budget**

Jane Correia has received word that the House is appropriating additional funds for distribution to local school district; we anticipate \$272,931, on a monthly basis. Since this extra money is a conditional on gambling revenues and is not a guarantee Jane suggested proceeding with the cuts that were planned to balance the budget with level funding.

**MOTION:** Bill Estrella motioned to recommend to the full Committee acceptance of the budget as presented.

Marj McBride questioned the reappointment of the second dean at Mt. Hope, recalling that the position was to be temporary, for one year, to support Jaime Crowley as Assistant Principal. Ed Mara said the dean

has worked out beautifully, the high school is running very well and the position is built into the budget; an additional administrator was not added. John Saviano feels the administrators' decision should be supported—they are the experts. Bill Estrella pointed out that the recommendation at hand is to accept the budget figure presented, the position itself will come before the Committee for a vote. Marj does not think the School Committee will vote to refill that position; she wants assurance that no one can come back and say that she voted for the budget and the position was in it. Bill O'Dell mentioned there is a distinction between position specific and person specific and has difficulty with positions for specific people. Diana Campbell pointed out that the replacement for the high school library position was in the budget, but the position was not filled so precedence is not being set.

The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

### **Bid Awards**

**Mt. Hope Gymnasium Floor Bid:** George Simmons reported one bid received for \$22,000.

**MOTION:** Bill Estrella motioned to recommendation to the full Committee the awarding of the gym floor work bid to the only bidder for \$22,000. Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Student Transportation Bid:** First Student trimmed the original bid

figure at the request of Administration by \$30 to \$40,000 down to \$450,000 by replacing old busses with newer busses rather than brand new busses. Ed feels they are fair with us; the biggest item is the cost of fuel. The contract is for three years with a two year option after the three. Marj is concerned about the busses and getting too far behind. Jane said discussions will continue tomorrow; busses must meet State standards and inspections; we still do not know what the State will decide about transportation to private schools. John Saviano added that we should be considering replacement of one truck per year of the District fleet.

### **School Lunches**

Jane is reluctantly recommending a 25 cent price increase in school lunches, out of necessity, with elementary up to \$2.25 and secondary up to \$2.50; this is in line with Tiverton, Portsmouth and Middletown.

**MOTION:** Bill Estrella so moved. Paul Brule seconded.

Marj McBride asked about the breakfast program. Jane said it was restored—Andy Cerullo had written a grant that was awarded because of the increase in participation. Bill O'Dell has heard that portion sizes have gone down. Anyone is welcome to join the food advisory committee. Jane said we are also putting in new kitchen equipment at the high school as well as a new scanning system. The details will be in her report.

The motion to approve the price increase passed by a vote of 4 to 1

**with Bill O'Dell voting no.**

**The School Committee and Chartwells are represented on the Wellness Committee which will be involved.**

### **Kickemuit Technology Lab**

**The new space is looking good and is on time; George is waiting for the door and front windows; blinds have to be ordered for the windows. Service will be moved the third week in July. Bill Estrella asked for a full report in the Thursday packet.**

### **Mt. Hope Press Box – Torrado Estimate**

**Architect Luis Torrado is invoicing the District \$7,875 for designing a press box (attached).**

**MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned to receive and file this proposal. Paul Brule seconded. Bill had asked that a request for proposals for architectural and engineering services be put on the School Committee agenda; every time Mr. Torrado is asked to look at something, it costs us money. Diana Campbell suggested an architect in the community could be approached. Bill O'Dell is frustrated with the charges from this architect. Jane pointed out that stamped blueprints are a considerable responsibility for an architect.**

**The motion to approve passed unanimously.**

**Bill Estrella asked the Superintendent to draft a letter to the Boosters Club from the School Committee asking if they are interested in having someone help us with the press box.**

### **Summer Projects**

**George anticipates 90% of them will be completed.**

### **Administrators' Contracts**

**Positions/ contract language and not individuals are being discussed, therefore, this discussion was moved from Executive Session to Open Session. The increases proposed by the Superintendent are budgeted. Marj McBride wished to make it perfectly clear that her support of the budget does not necessarily mean she supports all the individual expenditures. The Committee hashed out ideas of where this discussion should be taking place—Budget or Personnel Subcommittees. The previous Administrator contracts for “Group B” are still in effect and salary increases are committed. The Chair of the Personnel/Contracts Subcommittee will investigate. Upper level Administration (Group A) salary increases are up for discussion. Bill Estrella suggested this issue be discussed in Executive Session at the full Committee meeting with the recommendations placed in a separate envelop marked “confidential.”**



### **Next Meeting**

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 21, 2008 at 6:00 PM at Oliver.**

### **Adjournment**

**At 7:55 PM Paul Brule motioned to adjourn; David Dugan seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**